



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Major Jon Siepmann – 916-854-3304

September 17, 2005
Release # 9-13-05

Light Armored Vehicles provide mobility for task force

DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS, LA. – Armored transport that will float? Look out Batman. The Counter Drug Task Force (CDTF) has a mode of transportation just as cool as the Batmobile. It's called the LAV (Light Armored Vehicle).

The LAV is a standard thirteen ton vehicle, with a crew of three, which is capable of speeds up to sixty miles per hour. It has eight wheels, can seat up to twelve, is equipped with long-range infrared and is designed to deflect bullets.

“These vehicles are essential to search and rescue efforts in situations where other military transportation simply won't do,” said Sgt. “M” (full name withheld to comply with operational security requests), non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the LAV team.

LAV's are also amphibious. They can operate in high-water locations, such as the flooded areas of Louisiana. “It's amazing. In four to five feet of water, the LAV can maneuver at a top speed of eight miles per hour,” said Staff Sgt. “K” (full name withheld to comply with operational security requests), LAV crew chief. “We have armored transport that floats.”

Teamed with members of the S.W.A.T. organization, U.S. marshals and federal agents, the CDTF use the LAV's for several types of missions. “We have teams on night patrols looking for looters, search and rescue missions during the daylight hours, and ongoing humanitarian efforts,” said Mack.

The LAV teams have joint missions with local police such as; handling a considerable amount of 911 calls and helping law enforcement officers reach their homes to gather weapons and other supplies to support missions. “Just like (the military), the (local) police need to be ready for whatever comes their way,” said Sgt. “K”.

Unlike the local authorities though, the CDTF has the ultimate mode of transportation. Bullet deflecting. Aquatic. It is the LAV.